

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A domestic carnivore food composition for preventing pigmentation abnormalities and/or improving the quality of the fur, ~~characterized in that it contains comprising:~~
 - at least one source of protein of animal or plant origin, and/or
 - at least one source of fatty substances of animal or plant origin, and/or
 - at least one source of ~~rapid or slow~~ carbohydrates, ~~in particular cereals~~, and
 - one source of free tyrosine representing at least 5% by weight of the total tyrosine supplied in the food composition.
2. (Currently Amended) The food composition of claim 1, wherein the free tyrosine level is greater than 10% of the total tyrosine supplied in the food composition.
- 3-5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The food composition of claim 1, wherein the domestic carnivore is chosen from cats, dogs, minks, foxes or sables.
- 7-12. (Cancelled)
13. (New) A food composition comprising:
 - (a) at least one source of protein of animal or plant origin, or at least one source of a fatty substance of animal or plant origin, or at least one source of carbohydrate, or any combination thereof; and
 - (b) a source of free tyrosine, wherein the amount of free tyrosine is at least 5% by weight of the total amount of tyrosine in the food composition.
14. (New) The food composition of claim 12, wherein the amount of free tyrosine is at least 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, or 30% by weight of the total amount of tyrosine in the food composition.

15. (New) The food composition of claim 12, wherein the food composition is a cat food composition.
16. (New) The food composition of claim 12, wherein the food composition is a dog food composition.
17. (New) The food composition of claim 12, wherein the food composition is a mink food composition, a fox food composition, or a sable food composition.
18. (New) The food composition of claim 12, wherein the color of the hair or fur is black.
19. (New) The food composition of claim 14, wherein the cat food composition meets the standard of Nutrient Requirements of Cats as published by the National Research Council of the United States of America.
20. (New) The food composition of claim 15, wherein the dog food composition meets the standard of Nutrient Requirements of Dogs as published by the National Research Council of the United States of America.
21. (New) The food composition of claim 12, wherein the food composition has a level of amino acids equal to or above acceptable nutritional standards.
22. (New) The food composition of claim 12, wherein the food composition is a nutritionally well-balanced food composition.
23. (New) The food composition of claim 12, further comprising a source of bound tyrosine.
24. (New) The food composition of claim 22, wherein the bound tyrosine is in the source of protein.
25. (New) A food composition comprising:
 - (a) a source of bound tyrosine; and
 - (b) a source of free tyrosine, wherein the amount of free tyrosine is at least 5% by weight of the total amount of tyrosine in the food composition.

26. (New) The food composition of claim 24, wherein the amount of free tyrosine is at least 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, or 30% by weight of the total amount of tyrosine in the food composition.

27. (New) The food composition of claim 24, wherein the food composition is a cat food composition.

28. (New) The food composition of claim 24, wherein the food composition is a dog food composition.

29. (New) The food composition of claim 24, wherein the food composition is a mink food composition, a fox food composition, or a sable food composition.

30. (New) The food composition of claim 24, wherein the color of the hair or fur is black.

31. (New) The food composition of claim 26, wherein the cat food composition meets the standard of Nutrient Requirements of Cats as published by the National Research Council of the United States of America.

32. (New) The food composition of claim 27, wherein the dog food composition meets the standard of Nutrient Requirements of Dogs as published by the National Research Council of the United States of America.

33. (New) The food composition of claim 24, wherein the food composition has a level of amino acids equal to or above acceptable nutritional standards.

34. (New) The food composition of claim 24, wherein the food composition is a nutritionally well-balanced food composition.